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G/TIP FOR NEUMANN; PRM FOR DENTZEL; ALSO FOR NEA/ELA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [KWMN](#) [ELAB](#) [SMIG](#) [JO](#)

SUBJECT: PROJECT PROPOSAL FROM IOM JORDAN TO REPATRIATE
DOMESTIC WORKERS

¶1. Fernando Arocena of the International Organization for Migration (IOM)'s Jordan Office approached post with a repatriation project proposal for female foreign domestic workers (FDWs) stranded in Jordan, and a request that the USG consider funding it. Embassy Amman endorses this proposal. Details follow:

- Cost: \$200,000.
- Impact: approximately 200 trafficked domestic workers repatriated.
- Per worker cost will vary depending on airfare and size of lump sum disbursement reintegration grant (when appropriate) to help the worker partially recover unpaid wages. The cost is estimated at a base of \$700 per worker, with approximately \$300 head room.
- In order to benefit, the migrant worker women must have entered Jordan legally, prior to 2003, and have worked as a housekeeper.
- They must currently be unemployed.
- They must not have any court cases pending in Jordan.
- They must wish to return to their country of origin voluntarily, but be without the resources to do so.

¶2. Success of the project will allow the Ministry of Labor and the Ministry of the Interior to take ownership for tackling the problem of trafficked domestic workers. In the current situation, it is unclear who is responsible for these stranded workers. The GOJ introduced standardized contracts for domestic workers in the past two years, ensuring that there is a responsible sponsor for any FDW that has arrived in Jordan since that time. This project, therefore, would wipe the slate clean for the GOJ. If the project succeeds, the ministries will have a fresh start to address FDW issues.

¶3. IOM proposes that the project last only six months. This time frame will be sufficient to repatriate nearly all of the eligible women, and will build capacity and raise awareness with the relevant ministries in the GOJ without becoming a permanent solution to the problem of stranded FDWs.

¶4. According to Arocena, Jordan's Ministry of Labor has agreed to the project, and IOM will work with the Ministry of the Interior to waive the workers' overstay fines once the project is implemented. It is these fines that effectively trap many domestic workers in Jordan.

¶5. IOM will handle all of the substantive work of the project. They will identify the cases, assist in the procurement of travel documents, and arrange all of the

transportation needs.

¶6. Arocena mentioned that he is approaching other Western embassies for funding, and is agreeable to an offer of partial sponsorship from USG.

¶7. IOM Jordan will ask IOM Washington to forward a concept paper to G/TIP and PRM. Additionally, Arocena will draft a full project summary within the next 10 days.

¶8. Comment: Post believes the proposal has strong merit. We have worked closely with IOM here. The plight of female domestic workers in Jordan is a recurring and prominent item on the agenda of our discussions with senior GOJ officials.
HALE